

parlour

Watery Grave
June 20 – 21, 2009

For most visitors, *Watery Grave*, Parlour No. 6, is reached by a journey across the New York harbor on a Staten Island-bound ferry—an appropriate preface to an exhibition that explores the transformative, destructive and mysterious effects of natural phenomena and, in particular, water. An expedition of sorts, *Watery Grave* sets out to confront the transience of human order and the relationship between what once existed and what exists now or rather the erosion of the human imprint by and through nature. The exhibition will feature drawings, paintings and film by Hidenori Ishii, Colette Murphy, Colette Robbins and Marina Roy. *Watery Grave* is hosted by artists Carly Haffner and Don Porcella in their Staten Island apartment.

Colette Murphy's acrylic and graphite paintings depict harrowing scenes of shipwrecks and a post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans. Her sublime land and seascapes are silent reminders of the power of nature's potential. Even her brush strokes, which are absorbed into the untreated linen, seem to mimic the decaying mold upon a fallen tree. **Hidenori Ishii's** artistic practice is concerned with transformations, erosions and constructions of improbable environments, using a combination of patterns both natural and man-made. His painting *Mountain*, which portrays Staten Island's Fresh Kills landfill, was created in order to explore the visual and symbolic dialogue of man's intention, nature's inevitability and the tension between the two. Engaging in the notions of tragic history and survival, in both their form and content, the graphite drawings of **Colette Robbins** submerge the viewer into a dense tapestry of moments of transformation. In *Half Lives*, overgrown trees hang ominously over a seemingly abandoned structure while fossil-like helmets line up along its side and tiny barnacles feed upon the intricately textured wall. Giving way to renewed realities and limitless possibilities, Robbins engages the viewer by the process of devolution. In **Marina Roy's** animated film *Apartment*, the presence of nature serves as a metaphor for the release of creative energies from the confines of social decency, prejudices, and norms: water pours from the ceilings, flooding the dilapidated mansion, and animals charge, float, burrow and swim through the multiple period rooms. The uses and abuses of the natural environment stemming from excess-production and over-consumption are also intimately tied to Roy's practice.

While *Watery Grave* is perhaps a morbid exploration of man and nature's interaction, it is important to remember that through decay and chaos comes transformation and new forms of life. The impetus for the exhibition is to explore this process and contemplate the many possibilities and outcomes that emerge.

Watery Grave opens Saturday, June 20th from 6 – 9 PM, and can be viewed on Sunday, June 21st from 12 – 6 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com or visit www.parlourdoor.com.

Colette Robbins is a graduate of the Parsons MFA program and will have a solo show at Like the Spice this fall. Marina Roy, who lives and works in Vancouver, received her MFA from the University of British Columbia and has participated in many exhibitions around the globe. Hidenori Ishii, who received his MFA from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, recently had a solo

exhibition at Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore and will be featured in their summer show. Colette Murphy graduated from the Hunter College MFA program in 2008 and has shown with Dean Projects in London, East Hampton and Long Island City.

Parlour is a nomadic exhibition space that presents weekend-long exhibitions in different homes throughout New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in the unique and dynamic setting of actual living spaces. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Leslie additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College.

directors

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